

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 are amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 4 can be found in Fig. 6, for example. No new matter is added. Claims 7 and 8 were canceled previously.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Rosenquist et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,530,736, herein "Rosenquist").

Regarding the rejections of Claims 1-6 and 9-10 as anticipated by Rosenquist, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part:

wherein the clean box is set so as to position an inside peripheral edge of the tab inside an area within a peripheral edge of said first opening portion so that a part of an airflow from the inside of the chamber hits the chamber side surface of the tab to change an airflow from the inside of the chamber to an airflow along the surface of the tab,

The inventions recited in amended Claims 1 and 4 are directed to a clean box that is set so as to position an inside peripheral edge of the tab inside the area within the peripheral edge of a first opening portion formed on a wall of a chamber so that a part of an airflow from the inside of the chamber hits the chamber side surface of the tab to change an airflow from the inside of the chamber to an airflow along the surface of the tab.

One benefit of the inventions recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 4 is that an airflow flowing from the inside of the chamber first hits onto the chamber side surface of the tab. Then, in the end, the flow direction is changed to the airflow along the surface of the tab.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that the inside peripheral edge of the tab in Rosenquist is positioned inside the area of a first opening portion to make the airflow along

the surface of the tab in Figs. 6A and 6B (page 3, lines 2-5 of the outstanding Office Action). However, in Figs. 6A and 6B of Rosenquist, although Rosenquist describes that airflow is directed along the surface of the tab, it fails to disclose that the inside peripheral edge of the tab is positioned inside the area of the first opening portion. That is, Rosenquist describes that the inside peripheral edge of the tab is positioned at the same position as the peripheral edge of the first opening portion as shown in the annotated versions of Figs. 6A and 6B provided below.

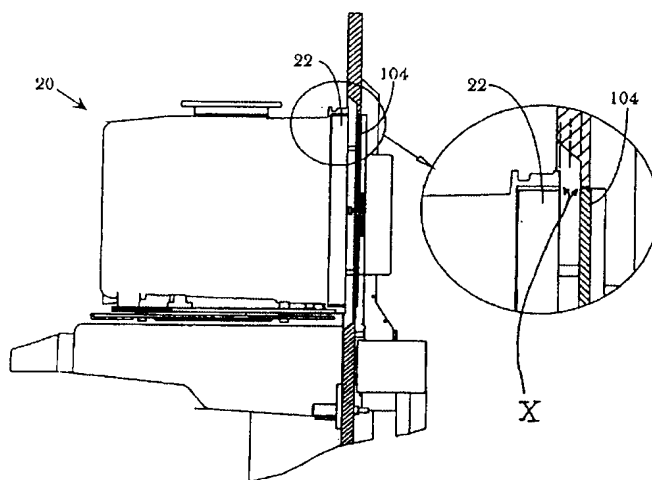


Fig. 6A

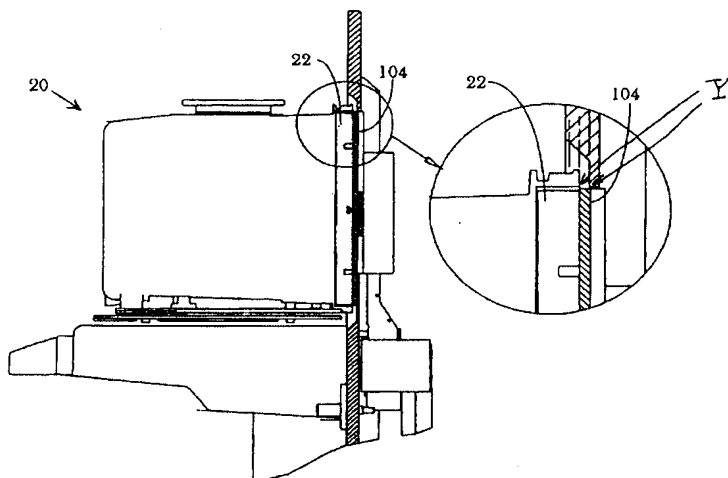


Fig. 6B

In order to further clarify the above-described difference, amended Claim 1 recites that the clean box is set so as to position an inside peripheral edge of the tab inside an area within a peripheral edge of said first opening portion so that a part of an airflow from the inside of the chamber hits the chamber side surface of the tab to change an airflow from the inside of the chamber to an airflow along the surface of the tab.

Rosenquist fails to disclose the above-noted feature in which the clean box is set so as to position an inside peripheral edge of the tab inside the area within a peripheral edge of said first opening. Furthermore, because Rosenquist fails to disclose the above feature, Rosenquist also fails to disclose that a part of an airflow from the inside of the chamber hits the chamber side surface of the tab to change an airflow from the inside of the chamber to an airflow along the surface of the tab. Because no part of the airflow from the inside of the chamber can hit the chamber side surface of the tab in Rosenquist, Rosenquist fails to disclose that a part of an airflow from the inside of the chamber impacts the chamber side surface of the tab to change the airflow from the inside of the chamber to the airflow along the surface of the tab.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 and amended independent Claim 4, which recites substantially similar features, patentably distinguish over Rosenquist for at least the reasons discussed above. Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 each depend from one of amended independent Claims 1 and 4 and patentably distinguish over Rosenquist for at least the same reasons as the independent claims.

For the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Moore deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, she is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

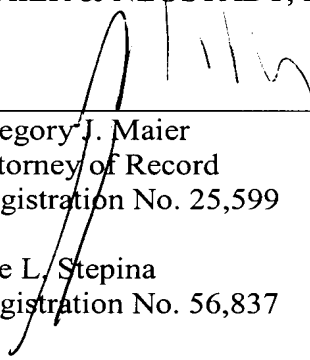
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/07)

I:\ATTY\LS\24s\245161US\245161US-AM-DUE-6-27-08.DOC



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Lee L. Stepina  
Registration No. 56,837

Robert T. Pous  
Registration No. 29,099